

Tue 4/7/2020 11:20 AM

Falvey, John F (DOT) john.falvey@alaska.gov

Use of N95 respirators

All AMHS Employees,

Please see below a message from Deputy Commissioner Siroky.

Thank you,

Captain Falvey

The Commissioner cares about the health and safety of every employee. However we also we need to be good citizens of our communities and our state. Therefore we need to be conserve personal protection equipment for medical personnel should they need them while protecting our staff. See the below guidance on when to use N95 respirators and how to safely reuse them and how to clean them when necessary.

There are two kinds of N95 respirators/masks

- N95 Respirator
 - Meet criteria established by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).
 - Designed to protect the wearer from exposure to airborne particles (dust, mist, fumes, fibers and bacteria and viruses).
 - Example - 3M model 8210.
- Surgical/Medical N95 Respirators
 - Approved by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA).
 - Protects from exposure to airborne particles.
 - Designed to resist penetration by high-pressure streams of liquid, such as those that might result from a human artery being punctured during surgery.
 - Example - 3M model 1860.
 - If we have any of these please reserve them for health care providers.

Use of N95 respirators/masks at DOT&PF is for OSHA reasons such as protection from fumes, dust, mist and fibers. They should not be distributed to protect individuals who are concerned about exposure to viruses.

N95 Reuse and Cleaning Instructions for masks used for dust and/or fume exposure

N95 respirators should be reused as much as possible to conserve supplies for First Responders.

- After use place N95 mask in plastic bag or container with your name on it. This protects it from further contamination - then wash your hands.
- Do not reuse a mask worn by someone else.
- Use of low pressure air (30lbs or less) may be used out doors to reduce dust particulates. Apply air from the inside of the mask.
- Wash your hands after use, and after you put on a used respirator – as they can trap viruses.
- **Do not reuse** – if mask is damaged.

If there are people in the workplace who are sick and exhibiting any COVID-like symptoms, have them cover their mouth and nose with whatever they have on hand (scarf, bandana, other fabric that can serve as a temporary mask) and leave the building immediately. Use appropriate methods to clean and sanitize the employee's work place and any surfaces they may have come in contact with. Don't forget to sanitize the restroom counters, faucets and the breakroom etc. Do not wait for the nightly janitors to do this - we all have to chip in and take care of each other. Wash your hands throughout after cleaning any surfaces

Wash your hands frequent through out the day and after every occurrence of touching shared equipment.

Stay Healthy

Mary Siroky, Deputy Commissioner
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities